

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5435
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2003
DANGER TO AJANTA ELLORA CAVES
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a recent study by Geological Survey of India (GSI) has revealed that noise and other pollution have made adverse impact on Ajanta and Ellora Caves;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to save these caves?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The Geological Survey of India, Nagpur Division has carried out Multidisciplinary Geo technical investigations including the environmental studies at Ajanta and Ellora caves during the years 1998-2001 and they have revealed that noise and other pollution have some impact on the caves.

(c) The area has been declared as a silence zone. Vehicular traffic has been diverted and shopkeepers have been shifted from foothill of the caves to the recently constructed shopping complex at T-Point. Non polluting buses are in operation from T-Point to the caves to control noise and dust pollution.